



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

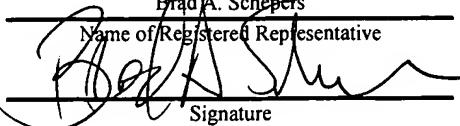
In re patent application of: ) Before the Examiner:  
Van Hoeck et al. ) David J. Isabella  
)  
Application Serial No. 10/775,546 ) Group Art Unit 3738  
)  
Filed February 10, 2004 ) Ref. No. MSDI-435/PC263.32  
)  
INTERVERTEBRAL SPACERS ) March 29, 2007

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION (WITH RCE)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the final Office Action mailed November 29, 2006, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks. A fee in the amount of \$120.00 is remitted herewith for a one (1) month extension of time, thereby extending the time period to respond to the final Office Action to March 29, 2007. Additionally, remitted herewith is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and the requisite fee in the amount of \$790.00. Please charge any additional fees which may be necessary to Deposit Account No. 12-2424, but not to include any payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:
March 29, 2007
_____ Date of Deposit
Brad A. Schepers
_____ Name of Registered Representative

_____ Signature
March 29, 2007
_____ Date of Signature

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Claims 1-48 and 58-69 were pending in the subject application for the final Office Action mailed on November 29, 2006. Claims 21-48 have been withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected species of the invention. Claims 1-20 and 58-69 have been rejected on various grounds. In view of the following amendments and remarks and the Request for Continued Examination filed herewith, reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are hereby requested.